

EPA - Hurricane Laura #11

September 3, 2020

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

EPA is working with federal and state partners to respond to the impacts of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Laura. Hurricane Laura made landfall at the southwest Louisiana coast near Cameron, Louisiana at approximately 1 am on August 27, 2020 with maximum sustained winds at 150 miles per hour (mph) and transitioned north over Cameron Parish toward north central Louisiana. According to the National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (NHCCPHC), Hurricane Laura downgraded to a Tropical Storm just across the Arkansas state line, transitioned across Arkansas to the northeast and became a Tropical Depression west-northwest of Memphis, Tennessee with storm remnants heading northeast across Kentucky. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory for the Houston-Galveston area of Texas and the north central Louisiana and a flood warning for rivers in the Mermentau, Lafayette and Lake Charles areas of Louisiana.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- EPA has received 32 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's area of responsibility, related to Hurricane Laura. As of midnight, on September 2, 2020, all reports have been assessed and appropriate actions are being taken.
- EPA received the Mission Assignment (MA) extension from FEMA for support of Texas. The completion date has been extended to September 17, 2020, at the request of TCEQ to keep the TAGA van in the area because start-ups at some major industrial facilities have been delayed due to power grid issues.
- As of August 29, 2020, all ambient air monitors in the Houston area were back online. In Beaumont, 9 of 13 air monitors are online. Most sites are awaiting power restoration to come online. Status of air monitors in Texas can be found on TCEQ's Air Monitoring website.
<https://www17.tceq.texas.gov/tamis/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.news¤tOnly=false>
- EPA handheld air monitoring crews conducted air monitoring between September 1, 2020 and September 2, 2020. Roving handheld air monitoring operations will be completed today. The TAGA van continues to conduct daily mobile monitoring in the Port Arthur/Orange area.
- LDEQ has 2 of the 7 ambient air monitors back online in the Lake Charles area (Southwest & Acadiana Regions). Many sites are awaiting power restoration to come online. Status of air monitors in Louisiana can be found on LDEQ's Air Quality website.
<https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/ambient-air-monitoring-data-reports>.
- EPA responded to inquiries from an Environmental Justice (EJ) Stakeholder in Mossville, Louisiana and the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic regarding concerns about LDEQ not activating its mobile air monitoring unit during the fire at the Biolabs facility in Westlake, Louisiana. EPA notified them that their inquiry will be referred to LDEQ.
- EPA distributed maps of air monitoring locations for the Biolab response in Westlake, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana to Environmental Justice Stakeholders.
- EPA distributed a press release "EPA Completes Assessment of National Priorities Sites

Following Hurricane Laura” to media, congressional members, and EJ Stakeholders. All Hurricane Laura news releases can be found at <https://response.epa.gov/hurricanelaura>.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- The four EPA Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for water and wastewater have integrated into teams with USACE and LDH personnel and are assisting with assessments.
- Two Region 7 personnel along with the Region 7 Mobile Drinking Water Laboratory arrived in Lake Charles on September 2, 2020. Today the Mobile Lab staff are meeting with State and local personnel to determine when drinking water samples will be available for analysis.

FORCE MAJEURE

- On August 26, 2020, Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) received an anticipatory Force Majeure notice that the Motiva Chemicals facility in Port Arthur, TX began shutting down on August 25, 2020 and may have emissions on startup.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

- EPA is coordinating daily through multiple avenues with Louisiana and Texas on response status, needs, and to maintain situational awareness.

EPA RESOURCES

Hurricane Laura - Manpower Resources 9/3/2020						
Personnel	REOC Dallas(a)	Louisiana	FEMA Baton Rouge	Texas	FEMA Denton	Total
EPA	24*(a)	4/3*	1*	3*	1*	36
Mobile Lab	0	2	0	0	0	2
TAGA	0	0	0	1	0	1
ASPECT	0	0	0	0	0	0
START contractors	4*	2	0	9/4*	0	19
ERRS contractors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other contractor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	11	1	17	1	58

*working virtually

(a) Dallas added 3 part time EU staff and 2 part time travel staff to the REOC.

NATIONAL PRIORITY LIST SITES AND FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Superfund and Regulated Facility Assessments (as of 9/1/2020)		
Assessment Types	No Further Assessment	Assessment Required
NPL Sites - Texas	48	0
NPL Sites - Louisiana	28	0

RMP – Texas	57	0
FRP – Texas	34	0

As of September 1, 2020, remedial assessments for the 76 NPL sites within federally declared counties and parishes were completed and no further response related to Tropical Storm Marco or Hurricane Laura is required.

LDEQ has assessed 256 of the 330 priority facilities identified. No concerns were reported. *LDEQ Priority facilities include: Chemical Action Prevention (CAP) facilities, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Majors, STP Significant Minors, Radioactive Material Licensees, Toxic or Hazardous Pollutant Air Emission facilities (Title V), STP Industrial Majors, and, Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal (HWTS&D) facilities.*

DRINKING WATER /WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

All drinking water and wastewater assessments are being conducted and data being reported by the state in which the system is located.

Louisiana Water Assessments

Drinking Water Systems in Louisiana

The last update received from LDH on drinking water assessments was at 2:30pm on September 2, 2020. As of that time, LDH reported that 151 water systems are currently under a Boil Water Advisory related to Hurricane Laura. Updates should be available for tomorrow's report.

Wastewater Systems in Louisiana

Louisiana Wastewater

Included Area: Acadia, Ascension, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, La Salle, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Martin, St. Mary, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Winn		
Data as of September 3, 2020 10:00am		
Data provided by: LDH		
	# of systems	Population served
Operating with no use restrictions	83	N/A
Operating with use restrictions	11	N/A
Not Operating	5	N/A
Unknown	14	N/A
Total systems in impacted area	113	N/A
Comments:		

Texas Water Assessments

Drinking Water Systems in Texas

Included Area: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, and St. Augustine Counties in Texas		
Data as of September 3, 2020 2:00pm		
Data provided by: TCEQ		
	# of systems	Population served
Operating with no use restrictions	83	303952
Operating with use restrictions	58	144659
Not Operating	23	5126
Unknown	0	N/A
Total systems in impacted area	164	453737
Boil Water Advisory	43	N/A
Comments:		

Note: use restrictions could include boil water, do not drink, do not use, conservation measures, or other categories

Wastewater Systems in Texas

Included Area: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, and St. Augustine Counties in Texas		
Data as of September 3, 2020 2:00pm		
Data provided by: TCEQ		
	# of systems	Population Served
Operating ¹	55	285020
Partially Operating ²	1	3500
Not Operating ³	2	18500
Unknown	0	N/A
Total systems in impacted area	58	307020
Comments:		

¹ Operating is defined as all domestic wastewater is collected, treated, and discharged or land applied at Fed/State required levels and is able to meet these requirements on a permanent basis in lieu of a temporary basis in response to the incident.

² Partially operating means there are issues in collection and/or treatment, but some functions are occurring. Bypasses, sanitary sewer overflows, partial treatment, unauthorized discharges, and other issues could be occurring.

³ Not operating is defined as collection and/or treatment is not functioning.

AIR MONITORING

EPA handheld air monitoring teams conducted 163 air monitoring readings between September 2, 2020 and September 3, 2020. Results above an action level were reported at eight locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The detections were temporary (i.e., not sustained) and do not appear to indicate a VOC plume. The handheld air monitoring teams will complete their mission on September 3, 2020.

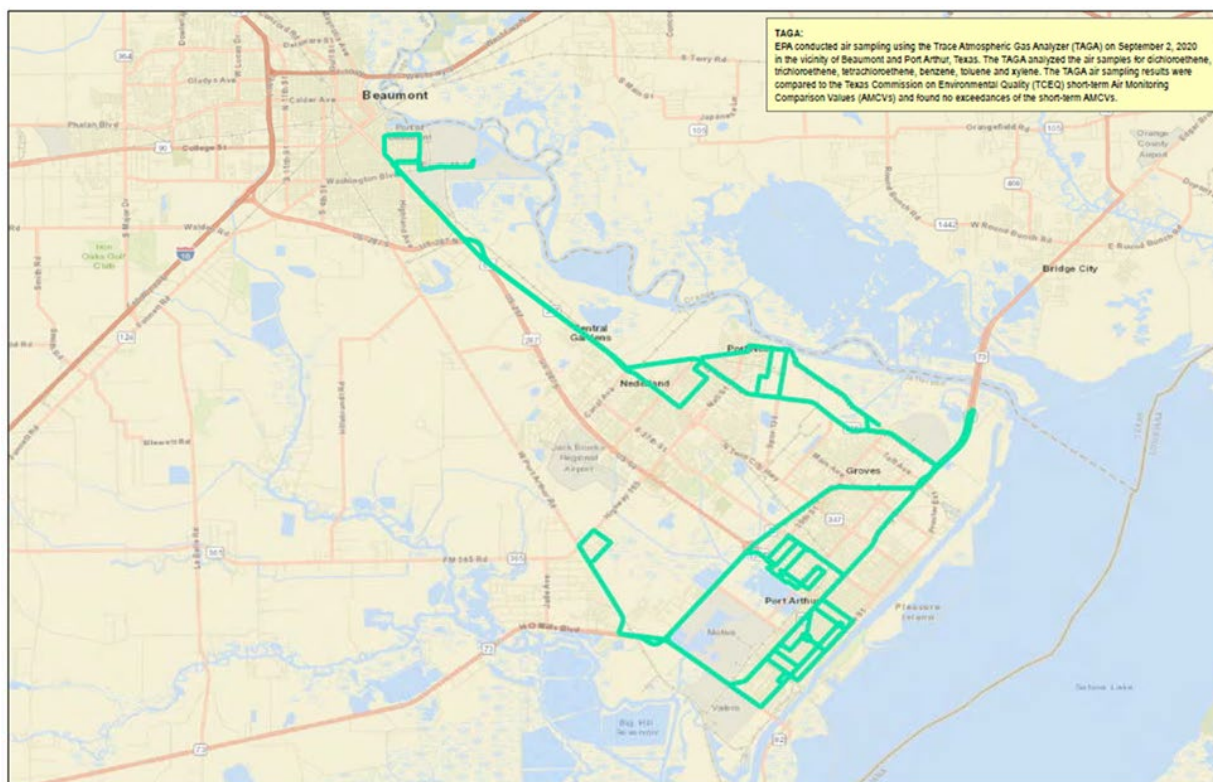
The facilities and neighborhoods monitored are listed below:

Facility/Area	Neighborhood
Chem32	West Orange
Hydrochem	West Orange
Motiva	El Vista
Total	El Vista
BASF	El Vista
Exxon Mobil	Beaumont – Charlton Pollard
Chevron	West Port Arthur
Valero	West Port Arthur
	Nederland
	Port Neches

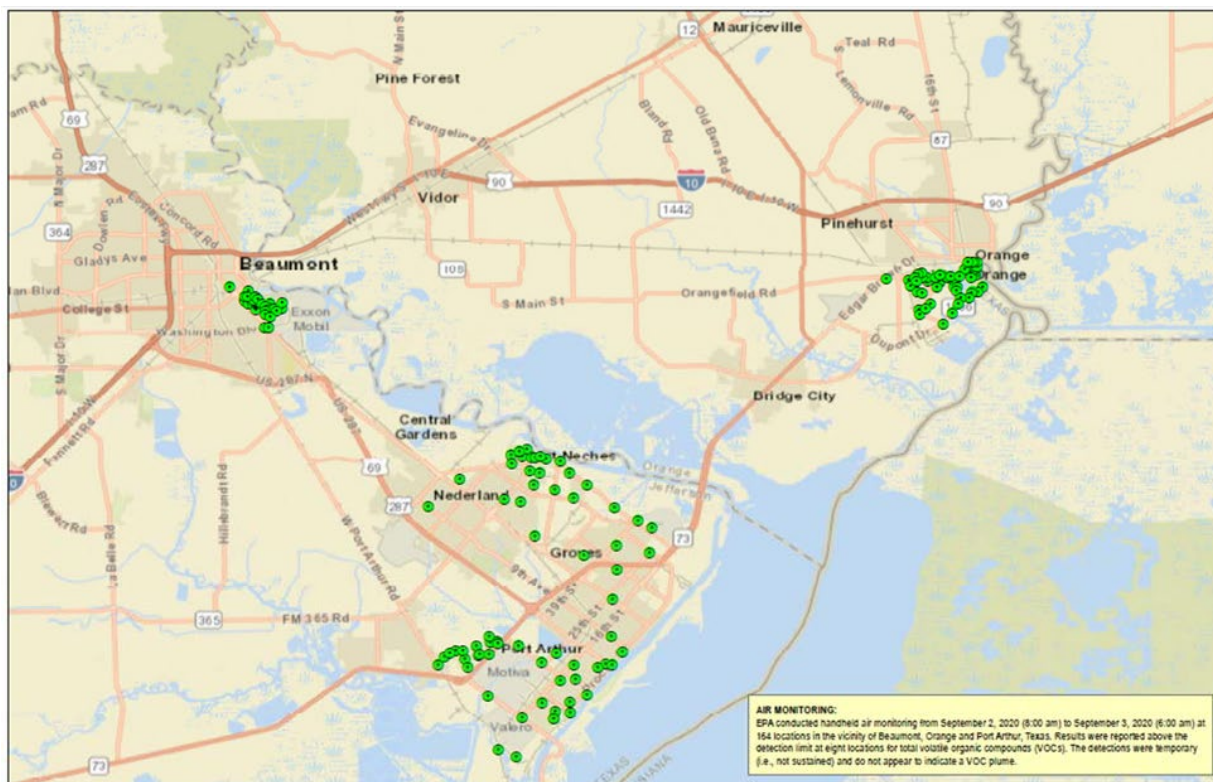
On September 2, 2020 TAGA conducted mobile monitoring in the Port Arthur/Orange area for VOCs to include benzene, toluene, xylenes/ethyl benzene, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene and dichloroethenes. Concentrations of the target compounds, the geographical position, and time were recorded and plotted on a map.

The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs.

Maps of ASPECT flights and TAGA air monitoring routes are posted on the public website, <https://response.epa.gov/hurricanelaura>.



<p>Legend</p> <p> TAGA DATA COLLECTION</p> <p>TEXAS</p>	<p>TAGA MAP HURRICANE LAURA RESPONSE JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS</p> <p>REPORTING PERIOD #4 9/2/2020</p>	<p>SCALE IN MILES 0 1.5 3 For Official Use Only Printed via Web</p>	<p>Printed: 11:14 AM 9/3/2020</p>
--	---	---	-----------------------------------



Legend

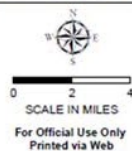
AIR MONITORING LOCATION

● NO EXCEEDANCE



AIR MONITORING MAP HURRICANE LAURA RESPONSE JEFFERSON AND ORANGE COUNTIES, TX

REPORTING PERIOD #5
 9/2/2020 0800 - 9/3/2020 0600



EPA GIS
 Printed: 11:42:22 AM 9/3/2020